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## **RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL GILL NET USERS IN NORTH CAROLINA**

There is not a specific commercial license for gill nets in North Carolina. The Standard Commercial Fishing License allows fishermen to use a variety of commercial gears.

There is an Estuarine Gill Net Permit required for commercial fishermen that set anchored gill nets in estuarine waters. This permit is not required for gill nets set in the ocean and it is not required for other types of gill nets.

- In FY2018\*, there were 2,716 Estuarine Gill Net Permits issued.
- In calendar year 2017, there were 1,118 commercial participants that reported landings from gill nets. Data for 2018 is not available yet.

Recreational fishermen are allowed to use limited amounts of commercial gear, including gill nets, if they hold a Recreational Commercial Gear License. These license holders must abide by recreational size and bag limits and they cannot sell their catch.

- In FY2018, there were 2,445 Recreational Commercial Gear Licenses issued.

**\*FY2018 runs from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.**